



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**

SPECIAL PUBLIC NOTICE

*AVAILABILITY OF ARID WEST SUPPLEMENT
TO THE 1987 WETLANDS DELINEATION MANUAL*

Public Notice No.: 200501975-BAH

Comment Period: December 22, 2006 through January 21, 2007

Project Manager: Bruce A. Henderson (805) 585-2145 bruce.a.henderson@usace.army.mil

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Los Angeles District, announces the publication and trial implementation period of the Arid West Interim Regional Supplement (Supplement) to the 1987 Wetland Delineation Manual (1987 Manual; can be found at <http://el.erdc.usace.army.mil/wetlands/pdfs/wlman87.pdf>). This Supplement was developed by wetland delineation experts from state and Federal agencies and academia with experience within the Arid West. It has been peer reviewed by an independent panel of Arid West scientists and practitioners and made available for a 90-day public comment period. This interim document will be tested for one year prior to finalization; the one-year period will be effective 30 days from the date of this public notice. The Supplement will be field tested by interagency teams of state and Federal scientists to assess its clarity and ease of use, and to determine whether its use will result in any spatial changes in wetland delineation for Clean Water Act purposes. Comments on this supplement should be submitted to Katherine Trott (CECW-CO), U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 441 G Street, NW, Washington DC 20314-1000 or by email to 1987Manual@usace.army.mil.

The Supplement, including data forms, and field evaluation questionnaire, as well as the independent peer review report and response document, the environmental assessment/FONSI prepared under NEPA, and copies of public comments are available on the Regulatory Homepage Website at http://www.usace.army.mil/inet/functions/cw/cecwo/reg/reg_supp.htm

The following guidance is superseded by this Supplement, and is hereby rescinded by this public notice:

“Implementation of the 1987 Corps Wetland Delineation Manual,” memorandum from John P. Elmore dated 27 August 1991.

“Questions & Answers on the 1987 Manual,” memorandum from John F. Studt dated 7 October 1991.

“Clarification and Interpretation of the 1987 Manual,” memorandum from Major General Arthur E. Williams dated 6 March 1992.

"Revisions to National Plant Lists," memorandum from Michael L. Davis dated 17 January 1996.

"NRCS Field Indicators of Hydric Soils," memorandum from John F. Studt dated 21 March 1997.

We are planning to hold orientation sessions near the start of the growing season to help interested parties become more familiar with the Supplement. Persons interested in attending these sessions should contact the appropriate Corps District office within 30 days of this notice. Specific dates and locations will be determined based on this input, and interested parties will be notified.

Effective 30 days from the date of this public notice, the Supplement data forms and indicators must be used for any data collection for wetland delineations. Field data collected for wetland delineations using the 1987 Manual prior to the effective date of this notice, but not yet submitted to the appropriate Corps District for review and formal approval will be grandfathered. Documentation must be submitted to the appropriate Corps District which clearly shows the field data was collected prior to 30 days from the date of this notice in order to qualify for this grandfather provision. Once this documentation and the field data have been reviewed and approved by the appropriate Corps District, a written jurisdictional determination will be issued.

While we are confident the Supplement will improve the accuracy of wetland delineation in Arid West, anyone performing a wetland delineation during this interim period using the Supplement who believes it has resulted in a significantly different boundary line than the 1987 Manual may also complete the delineation using the 1987 Manual and submit both delineations. Enough points to adequately describe the representative plant communities, soils, and hydrology of the site(s) and to clearly document the difference in boundaries between the two methods must be included. Data recorded on both the existing 1992 data forms and the new Supplement data forms, maps indicating the location of the field site and data collection points (upland and wetland), and a completed field evaluation questionnaire for each delineation must be submitted as part of the jurisdictional determination request to the appropriate Corps District Office. The District will make the final determination based on analysis of all the submitted information. This information will also be used in evaluation and potential modification of the Supplement.
